

REMARKS

Claims 2, 4, 6, 8-11 and 15-53 are pending in the application.

Applicants note with appreciation the indication that claims 2, 4, 8-11 and 15-53 are allowed.

Claim 6 was rejected over HIBINO et al. 6,529,251 in view of SHIMADA et al. 6,448,578. That rejection is respectfully traversed.

The position set forth in the Official Action is that claim 6 does not limit the Al film to the bottom layer and rather, the Al film could be at the bottom layer or at the middle layer.

As pointed out to the Examiner during a telephone call on January 5, 2007, while claim 6 initially does not limit Al to the bottom layer, the wherein clause of claim 6 recites a multi-level film including Al at the bottom, Ti at the middle and TiN film at the top, which limits claim 6 to having Al at the bottom level.

Since both HIBINO and SHIMADA disclose Al as the middle film, the proposed combination of references does not render obvious claim 6.

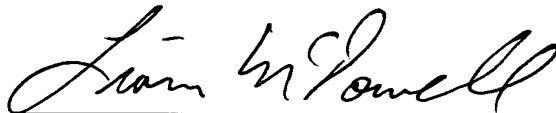
In order to clarify that claim 6 limits Al to the bottom layer, it was agreed that the previous recitation of the multilevel structure should be deleted, leaving the wherein clause to recite that the Al is at the bottom level.

In view of the present amendment and the foregoing remarks, it is believed that the present application is in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and passage to issue are respectfully requested.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 25-0120 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17.

Respectfully submitted,

YOUNG & THOMPSON

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Liam McDowell", written in dark ink. The signature is fluid and stylized, with the first and last names being more prominent than the middle name.

Liam McDowell, Reg. No. 44,231
745 South 23rd Street
Arlington, VA 22202
Telephone (703) 521-2297
Telefax (703) 685-0573
(703) 979-4709

LM/lk